



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 7, 2006

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MAN ARRESTED ON CHARGES RELATED TO FIRE IN HAPPY JACK

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.— Jesse N. Perkins, 38, of Happy Jack, Ariz. was arrested yesterday by the U.S. Forest Service for leaving a fire unextinguished, intentionally cutting and damaging trees and intentionally removing trees within the Coconino National Forest. The Fisher Fire in Happy Jack, Ariz. burned one half acre of forest land on January 18 and 19, 2006.

According to the complaint, officials from the U.S. Forest Service determined that the Fisher Fire was human caused by using smaller trees and pine needles to ignite and fuel the fire. All-terrain vehicle tracks located north of the fire led federal officials to private property where Perkins is the caretaker.

Perkins made his initial appearance in federal court in Flagstaff, Ariz. today. He will remain in federal custody until his detention hearing which is set for Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

A conviction on any of these counts carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison, a \$5,000 fine or both. A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the complaint was conducted the U. S. Forest Service. The prosecution is being handled by Camille Bibles, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Ariz.

For information on fire danger in the Coconino National Forest, please call (928) 527-3600.

MAG NUMBER: 06-4034M
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-025(Perkins)

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